

RESOLUTION NO. 22-247

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL'S  
DRAFT SCOPING PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, New York State adopted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("Climate Act"), which set some of the nation's most aggressive targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating renewable energy generation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Act called for the creation of a Climate Action Council that is charged with developing a Scoping Plan of recommendations to meet these targets; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Council developed its draft Scoping Plan, it consulted with several Advisory Panels that held sector-specific discussions and provided recommendations for their subject areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Use and Local Government Advisory Group, which advised on two key sections of the report that will directly impact counties and municipalities and require their partnership, did not include any members who currently work in local government; and

**WHEREAS**, county and municipal leaders are best positioned to understand local needs and anticipate how meeting the Climate Act's goals could disproportionately impact their communities and economies; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommendations included in the draft Scoping Plan released in December 2021 do not adequately balance the goal to accelerate renewable energy production with the need for food production; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft Scoping Plan's recommendations to prohibit new gas service to existing buildings and certain gas/oil equipment in new construction beginning in 2024 will be costly to residents and businesses and could leave New Yorkers in the cold during harsh winters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Madison County expresses frustration with the lack of local government representation on the Climate Action Council and its Advisory Panels and the lack of local input in the development of the draft Scoping Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** counties and other local governments should be engaged as active participants in the review and implementation of the Scoping Plan and provided with technical planning and zoning assistance in all areas where they are relied upon to implement the recommendations of the Scoping Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the State's timetable for meeting its renewable energy production goals and transitioning away from natural gas is too aggressive and should be extended; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State's time table for comments should be extended to December 31, 2022; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the State should level the playing field to incentivize landowners to protect productive farmland, which naturally captures carbon dioxide and should be conserved wherever possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Madison County shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the President/CEO of the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Dated: May 10, 2022

*John M. Becker, Supervisor*

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John M. Becker, Supervisor  
Town of Sullivan